

The Bel Aire Breeze

Vol. 6, No. 1

FEBRUARY 2011

Complimentary copy

Council elections set

Mayor seeks
re-election to
another term

By Matt Heilman

In Bel Aire, three candidates filed to run for two spots on the city council and one candidate filed to run for mayor.

On the city council, incumbents Dave Sly and Carolyn Marlier filed to stay on the council. They face a challenger in Bel Aire resident

Maurice (Moe) Terrebonne. The top two vote-getters will be elected.

Sly is seeking his second term on the council. He said he wants to see through unfinished business in the city.

“We’ve got positive things going in the city, and I want to see these things come to fruition,” Sly said.

He also said he wants to stay on the council to be part of the group that aims to keep the city on track financially trying to manage its debt.

Marlier has served on the Bel Aire council for nearly 12 years. She said she’s seeking another term

because she enjoys serving the city she’s lived in for 45 years. She said she also wants to help keep the mill levy down as much as possible.

“I’m very passionate about Bel Aire,” Marlier said. “I enjoy working with the council and the staff we have now. I just want to make Bel Aire the best place it can be to live.”

Terrebonne said he wants to run “to help Bel Aire anyway (he) can.” He said the council needs to take a harder look at every item on the city budget and thinks more should be done to market available land in the city.

Besides two council seats, Bel Aire residents will decide if they want to keep their current mayor in the April 5 general election. At the filing deadline, Mayor Harold Smith is unopposed.

Smith said his top priority to serve another mayoral term is to help the city manage its land debt.

“We have a long way to go, but we have also come a long way, and I believe I can help finish the job,” Smith said.

He said his second priority is to make sure that citizens keep informed with what goes on at City Hall.

Council eyes plan to handle city’s debt

Tax increases are likely

By Matt Heilman

At its Jan. 18 meeting, the Bel Aire City Council unanimously approved a debt-solution plan Mayor Harold Smith introduced in November.

Last spring, the debt on about 1,600 acres of undeveloped city-owned land in Bel Aire was reported to be near \$19 million. There’s optimism looking toward future development in Bel Aire, but the city can’t afford to wait and hope for good things to happen.

Smith’s debt-solution plan approved by the council has Bel Aire projected to be out of debt in

25 years if land sales go as expected. If sales are better than projected, the debt could be relieved in less than 25 years, and it will take longer than 25 years if land sales go slower

Bill format to change

Due to privacy issues and convenience, utility bills will switch from the post card format to letters delivered in envelopes, starting this month.

In addition to convenience, City Manager Ty Lasher said more information could be available on water bills with the envelope format, including charts for residents to see water usage over a 12-month stretch and an explanation of what’s involved with the utility bills.

For more information, contact the city’s utility clerk, Jamie Hayes, at 744-2451, extension 132.

Tierra Verde development gaining traction



An artist’s rendition of Tierra Verde accompanies a sign for the development on the side of a trailer on the property near 47th North and Webb Road. Tierra Verde developers have received a few commitments to build in the development’s first phase, including The Energy Tunnel, which plans to move to Bel Aire from Southern California this year.

Alternative energy firm has big plans for Bel Aire

By Matt Heilman

The first company expected to build in the first phase of Bel Aire’s Tierra Verde development is looking to be on the cutting edge of one of the world’s fastest-growing industries, alternative energy. Energy Tunnel Inc., based in Southern California, is planning to move to the Wichita area in about six months and eventually begin full-time operation in the Heartland.

Tierra Verde is near Webb Road along 47th North.

When the Energy Tunnel gets started in Bel Aire — potentially by the end of 2011 — production will begin on alternative energy generators. What’s in mind is different than the wind turbines manufactured at the Siemens plant in Hutchinson.

Energy Tunnel president Billy Graham wouldn’t go into much detail about the mechanism, which is still in the research and develop-

ment phase, but he described it as a “wind generator that doesn’t rely on the wind to blow.”

By using forced air, wind is created in a tunnel rather than with elevated turbines. The “tunnel technology” isn’t affected by or dependent on the weather, Graham said.

“Everything we do is in a tunnel,” Graham said. “... The big thing for us is we can produce power 24 hours a day, seven days a week.”

Several large energy companies are gradually shifting their focus from fossil fuels to possibilities with alternative energy. Graham said he wasn’t interested in competing with companies like Siemens, just increasing efficiency and showing what’s possible with new technology building off what’s already established.

“We’re not trying to go out there to blow a lot of smoke,” he said. “We just want to get off the

ground and show what we can do.”

Graham didn’t say much about the size and power of the tunnels, but he said initial production would likely be on mobile units in 40-foot shipping containers potentially capable of supplying between 85 and 100 kilowatts of power.

To put that in perspective, most microwave ovens output either 750 or 1,100 watts of electricity and one kilowatt is equal to 1,000 watts. So, 100 kilowatts should provide enough power to keep the lights on in a few midsize homes.

Further applications will be explored when the mobile units are scaled up and down, Graham said.

Graham, 55, has an extensive construction background, leading or consulting on large projects across the country. He said he’s been blessed with mechanical know-how, but is dependent on his team of researchers to get The Energy Tunnel off the ground.

So far, the company has ob-

tained a few large contracts on the international level.

Currently, plans call for The Energy Tunnel Inc. offices and sales force to be in Tierra Verde, with manufacturing to take place on about 80 acres in the nearby industrial park within a year, Graham said. He said he’s moving from Manhattan Beach, Calif., to the Wichita area because of the available space and to tap into a talented pool of local engineers and manufacturers, including laid-off aircraft workers.

“We’ve put some numbers together and if everything falls right, we could have about 500 jobs in about five years,” Graham said.

Graham’s wife, Bonnie Sills, is in charge of marketing for The Energy Tunnel as the company’s executive vice president. She’s also worked on several film and television crews, including the comedy

See ENERGY, Page 2

Street projects planned for schools

Work continues at new facilities

By Matt Heilman

Not much has been publicly discussed with the new USD 259 schools in Bel Aire since their ceremonial groundbreaking in October, but work at the sites continues as the Wichita area looks forward to the schools opening in the fall of 2012.

At the Jan. 4 Bel Aire City Council meeting, the council accepted a right-of-way easement for Lycee Road, a future city-owned street that will run north and south along the new high school property at the northeast corner of 53rd North and Rock Road. The road will have two access points, one off Rock Road and one off 53rd.

The council voted 5-0 to approve the easement for Lycee Road.

Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher said utilities are in place for the new high school and bids for the Lycee Road work and two other street projects will go out this month. The other projects include expansions to three lanes, leading to entrances at the new schools.

One expansion is from 53rd North and Rock east to the high school entrance off

See STREETS, Page 2

Area cities should show off

In this difficult economy, some of the most controversial decisions city leaders make involve committing money to provide incentives for new residents and businesses.

In Park City, we applaud the city for its support of a homebuyer’s incentive program and we hope to see it continue.

In May, the city council approved providing \$500 in incentives for individual homebuyers in Park City. The program cost up to \$20,000. The motion passed 4-3, a vote that proves how divided the council is on the program.

Park City’s participation in the program expired Dec. 31.

This month, the city council voted 4-3 to continue participation.

Some opponents of the program look at homebuyer incentives as little more than unnecessary handouts. In a perfect world, new residents could see Park City’s positive attributes and be willing to move to the city without incentives.

However, for Park City and similar cities on the edges of Wichita, measures such as the homebuyer’s incentive can be helpful in increasing the tax base.

Although home sales in most areas are down, even with incentives, the housing market would likely be worse if the cities just sat back and did nothing.

Most real estate agents and developers agree.

We also encourage cities to take part in the annual Home Show in downtown Wichita. Setting up a booth at the event may not draw new residents, but presenting your city in a positive light and at least getting your name out there is worth the effort.

In December, Park City narrowly approved participation in the Home Show, pledging \$1,500 for the February event and \$1,000 for next year’s show.

Kechi and Bel Aire also plan to have booths at the Home Show. Unfortunately, Valley Center does not participate in the event.

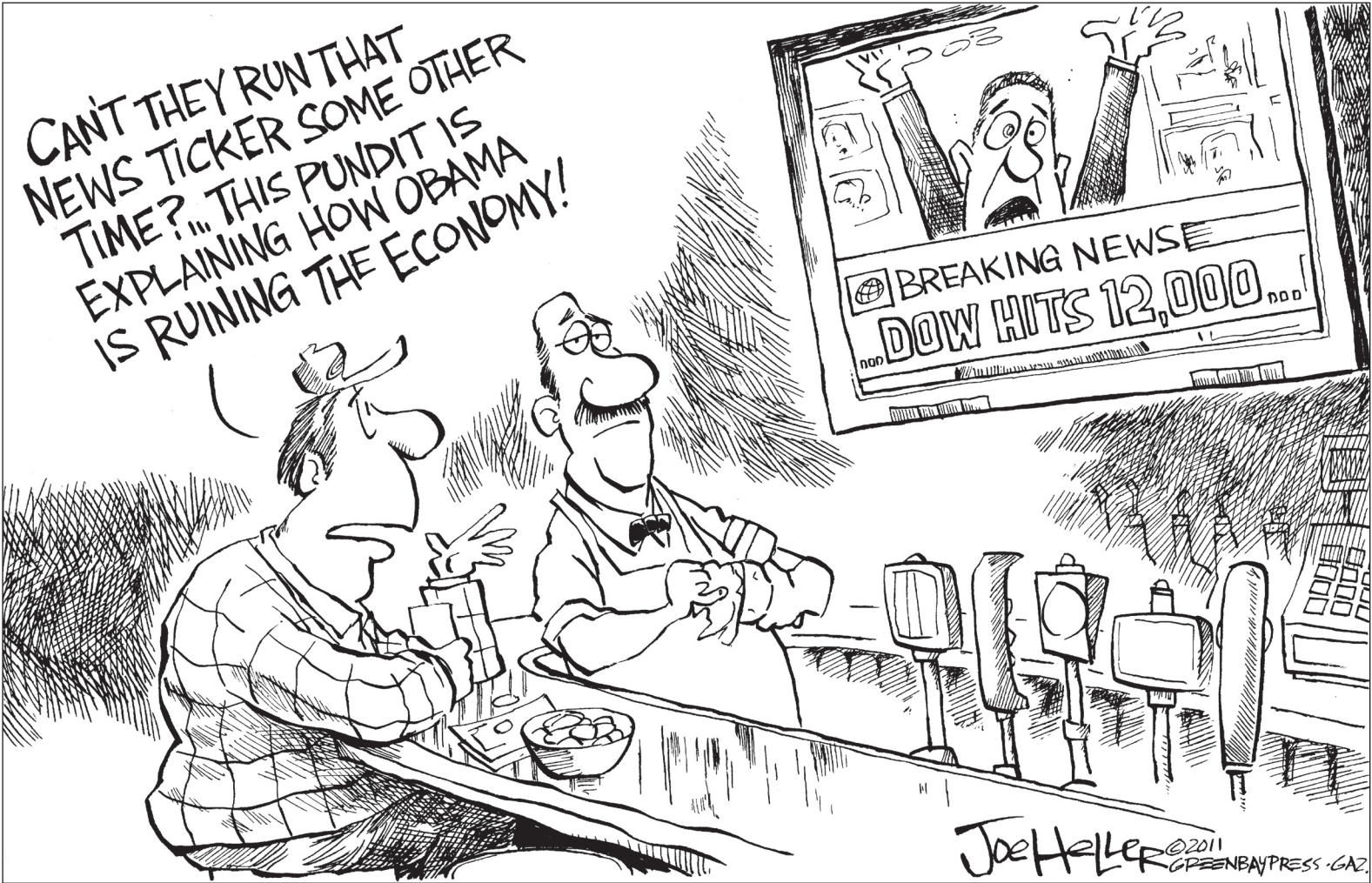
We know times are tough, but we hope city leaders realize how much of a positive impact they can make by marketing their cities.

We know leaders care about their city’s future. We encourage them to do all they can to encourage growth.

— The Bel Aire Breeze

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Big dreams make him skeptical

I hope you take a few minutes to read the story about the California company looking to move to north Sedgwick County in a few months.

Energy Tunnel Inc. plans to set up its headquarters and a production facility in Bel Aire’s Tierra Verde development along 47th North near Webb Road. Energy Tunnel is developing an alternative energy generator. It’s been described as a wind generator that doesn’t rely on the wind to blow. Rather, it uses forced air to create wind in a tunnel.

The company could be in operation by the end of this year.

Very interesting.

I wish the company well and hope for their success. I mean, it would be great to have a company that officials say could employ 500 people in about five years.

There’s been a lot of talk about the Tierra Verde development over the past several months but so far we’ve seen no activity out there.

In addition to Energy Tunnel,



Out of the office

By Chris Strunk

developers say they have received commitments for a surgical recovery center, organic gardens, an assisted-living facility, a church, an art institute and a 10,000-square-foot culinary arts facility for Butler County Community College, as well as a sports complex that would include baseball, softball and soccer fields.

I know I’m being skeptical, but it seems like it’s almost too good to be true.

I hope I’m 100 percent wrong.

†††

I knew my middle child, Jeremiah, liked to dance, but I didn’t realize he was actually pretty good at it.

Jer stole the show at my niece’s wedding reception Jan.

15.

Sorry, Amber.

Jer had been looking forward to the wedding for months so he could show off his break-dancing skills. On a couple of songs, the crowd parted to watch the youngster. I think folks especially enjoyed the times Jer spun on his head.

That was definitely the highlight of our whirlwind trip to southern Ohio, where three of my four brothers, my sister and my mother live. Amber, who happened to be a flower girl in my wedding 19 years ago, married a pretty cool guy named Dom. Yes, they seem too young to be getting married. But my wife reminded me that I was 21 when we got married.

It was nice seeing the family again. Of course, all the nieces and nephews are growing up and changing, and the family is expanding. There’s even a great-grandchild now, a cute little baby named Keeton.

Anyway, the trip was short

but eventful. We stayed one night at my brother’s place in central Missouri on the way out and then we visited downtown St. Louis, including a ride to the top of The Arch, for a few hours. We made it to Milford, Ohio, just as the line was forming at the rehearsal dinner buffet. Good timing, I’d say.

After a late night at my brother’s house and an afternoon just hanging out, letting the nephews wrestle on the living room floor and watching a couple of basketball games on TV (KU and Cincinnati), we went to the wedding.

We returned to Missouri the next afternoon and then to Kansas Jan. 17.

The distance really keeps our family from getting together as much as we’d like. Then again, maybe it’s the distance that keeps us together. I’m not sure which.

Chris Strunk is publisher of The Bel Aire Breeze. Reach him at 755-0821, news@arkvalleynews.com or on Facebook.

Letter to the editor

Thanks from Salvation Army

On behalf of The Salvation Army and those whom we serve, we would like to take this opportunity to say “thank you” to all your readers who helped make this another successful Christmas season.

As always, we are grateful to everyone who donated their time to bell ring throughout the holiday season, as well as the businesses that supported our Red Kettle

Campaign. These volunteers and all who helped by filling the red kettles and mailing in contributions have made a huge impact on our efforts.

Because of the generosity throughout the community, our neighbors in need are receiving help not just at Christmas time, but throughout the year. Thank you for playing such an important role in the work of The Salvation Army where you live. We are grateful for the generosity of those who give their time and treasures so freely to help people throughout the community.

If you are interested in donating or volunteering during the coming year, please call (800) 336.4547, extension 368, for more information. You can also find out more information about The Salvation Army’s service in this and other communities at www.kansas.salvationarmy.us.

May God bless you.

— Brian Carroll, service extension director, The Salvation Army Kansas and Western Missouri

Debt

Continued from Page 1

than projected, Smith said.

To be debt-free by 2036, the plan calls for a 3-mill property tax increase for land payments in each of the next two years with a consistent commitment to land payments from 2013 until the loan on the debt is paid off.

Currently, 9 mills out of Bel Aire’s budget are dedicated to help make land payments. In 2013 and onward, 15 mills will be needed for land payments.

Council member Dave Austin pointed out that Smith’s plan didn’t necessarily call for an increase in property taxes. During budget talks, the council will look at areas where cuts may be possible to find additional funds to devote toward debt payments.

Budget talks for 2012 will likely heat up in June with next year’s budget finalized in August.

Smith reminded Bel Aire residents that there is no in-

creased spending from City Hall that has added to the debt.

“With the plan, the city will have a way to monitor actual land sales to see if they are meeting projections,” Smith said. “Then we can quickly determine if changes will need to be made in the planning for land payments.”

Although council members don’t always see eye to eye on issues about the city’s budget, they agreed that Smith’s plan is at least a good starting point that sheds a dim light at the end of the tunnel.

Also on Jan. 18, the council:

- Approved an appropriations ordinance of \$591,117.49.
- Approved an ordinance and resolution to issue general obligation bonds to pay for about \$3.6 million in infrastructure improvements in the city.
- Heard from Jim Fields of Bel Aire’s special events committee who discussed plans for the Moonlight and Music Event in May or June. The council approved Fields and the events committee to move forward with planning for the event with a date yet to be determined.
- Approved a right-of-way easement along 53rd North.

Energy

Continued from Page 1

series, “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia.”

Sills said she’s been in contact with studios in Hollywood interested in the possibility of self-sustainability.

She said one of her husband’s primary goals is to bring work back to the United States and keep the country on the forefront of technological advancement.

“His main goal is to bring resources back here where jobs have been lost,” Sills said. “Kansas is perfect. I believe Kansas is more open and wants to bring people back to work. You have a huge pool of qualified people in the area with aerospace.”

Ultimately, Graham and Sills share a dream for cities in the United States to become self-sustaining through alternative energies.

Tierra Verde is a start, they

said. Plans call for every building in the nearly 230-acre, three-phase development to meet LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environment Design) certification.

Besides the Energy Tunnel, Tierra Verde LLC president Terrie Grillot and co-developer Paul Cavanaugh received commitments and letters of intent last fall to build in the development’s first phase of 77 acres.

The commitments include plans for a surgical recovery center, organic gardens, an assisted-living facility, a church, an art institute, a 10,000-square-foot culinary arts facility for Butler County Community College, and plans to purchase a sports complex parcel, which would include baseball, softball and soccer fields.

In December, Grillot said that with The Energy Tunnel’s headquarters at Tierra Verde, there could be enough power generated to keep nine buildings in the development off the

traditional electricity grid.

“The green is going to put Bel Aire on the map,” Grillot said.

Graham said he’s also been in talks with Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher to make the industrial park entirely green, or self-sustaining.

Besides Grillot and Cavanaugh, Graham credited Lasher for helping The Energy Tunnel get a start on its future home in Bel Aire. Over the last few weeks, Lasher has been in contact with officials at the state level, discussing the use of rail traffic for the company’s shipping.

“We’ve received a huge amount of help from Ty Lasher and the people of Bel Aire,” Graham said. “We have a lot of support there.”

As research and development continues, Graham said, “there’s a lot down the road from now.” At this point, he’s glad to be getting a start.

“We’re a baby ready to be born,” he said.

Streets

Continued from Page 1

53rd. The other expansion to three lanes is from 53rd and Woodlawn east to the K-8 building’s entrance off 53rd.

The K-8 school will be at the southeast corner of 53rd and Woodlawn.

Lasher said he hopes work on the street projects begin by May 1.

Also at the Jan. 4 meeting, the council:

- Approved paying 2011 REAP membership dues of \$2,962.
- Approved paying Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce dues of \$588.
- Approved an appropriations ordinance of \$186,848.90.
- Approved extending a one-year city engineering contract with Schwab-Eaton P.A. for one month and approved Lasher to gather requests for proposal from other engineering firms before the city decides which company it wishes to contract with starting in February.

Deadline for March: February 18

Bel Aire Breeze

Area church part of event to address pornography

By Matt Heilman

On Feb. 6, Bel Aire’s Crossroads Friends Church will join hundreds of other churches to confront “the elephant in the pew.” The problematic issue being addressed is pornography.

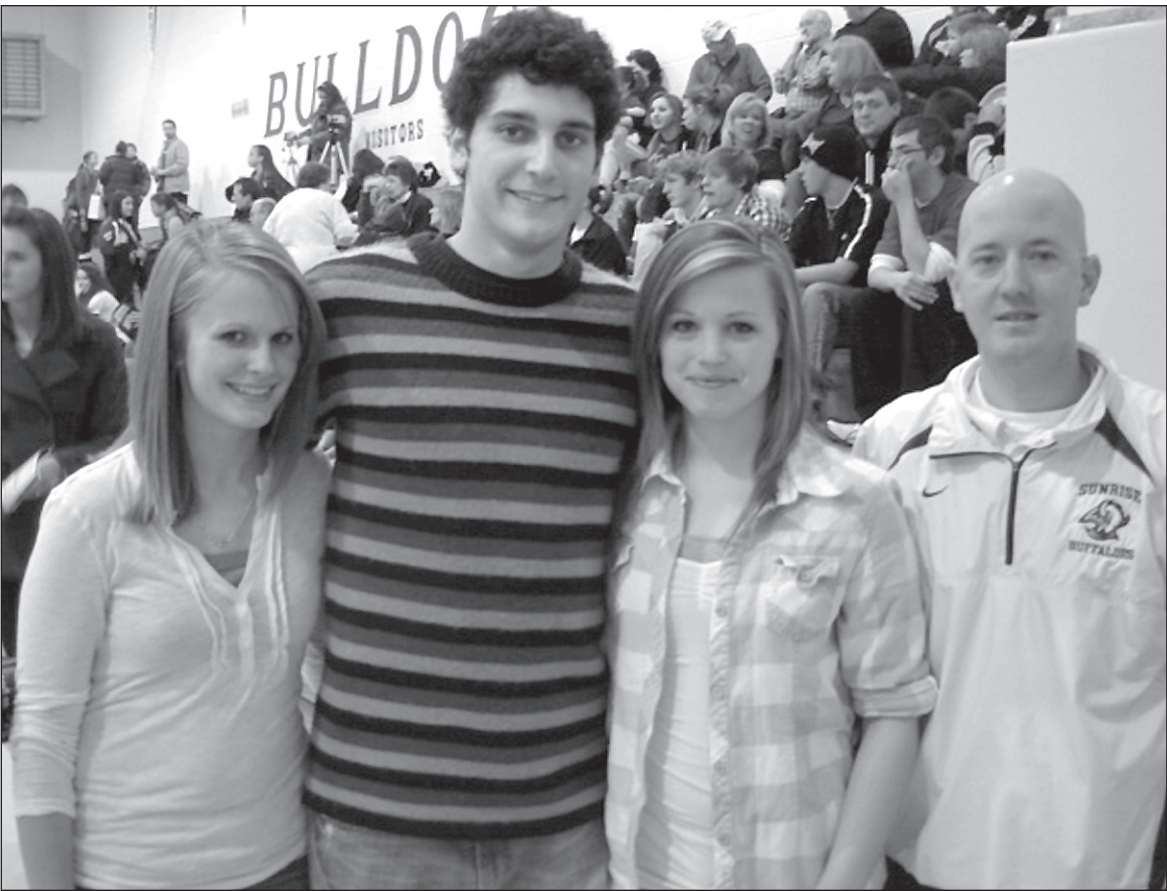
XXXchurch.com, founded by Pastor Craig Gross, will present a program for churches to address issues surrounding pornography on Feb. 6, which is Super Bowl Sunday.

Sunday services at Crossroads begin at 10:30 a.m. at Stucky Middle School, 4545 N. Broadview Circle.

According to a news release from Crossroads Friends Church, “pornography accounts for 23 percent of retail sales online and 40 million people visit porn sites daily.”

Gross and players in the NFL will lead the Feb. 6 program hosted by XXXchurch.com via virtual simulcast that “will be played all over the world.”

For more information on the XXXchurch.com simulcast event, contact Crossroads Pastor David Norman at 361-0407 or e-mail him at david@crossroadswichita.com.



Students help

Sunrise Christian Academy seniors Kip Wedel (left) and Kayla Beckham join Sunrise football coach Trey Hall (far right) in presenting McLouth High School senior Trevor Roberts (middle) with money collected in a fundraising effort. Roberts broke his leg in a Sept. 24 football game at Sunrise and eventually had to have his leg amputated after an infection set in. To reach out to Roberts, Wedel and Beckham organized a fundraising walk at Sunrise. Through the walk and sponsorship from Rusty Eck Ford in the car dealership’s Adopt a School Program, Sunrise students and teachers were able to raise \$7,585 to help Roberts in his recovery.

Courtesy photo

POLICE REPORTS

Jan. 12 — Officer McGuire responded to an alarm in the 4500 block of North Westlake Court.

Jan. 12 — Officer Pentecost responded to the request to assist a stranded motorist in the 5100 block of North Brookstone. Gordon E Jones was arrested on a charge of driving with a suspended license.

Jan. 12 — Officer Brandewiede responded to an alarm in the 4500 block of Dundee.

Jan. 12 — Officer McGuire took a report that Christian Mabrey was arrested by Kansas Highway Patrol on a Bel Aire warrant.

Jan. 12 — Officer Hutton responded to an alarm in the 6100 block of East Danbury.

Jan. 11 — Officer Pentecost responded to a non-injury accident at 4500 N. Hedgerow.

Jan. 11 — Lt. Griggs responded to an accident at 4500 N. Woodlawn. Officer found a gray 2010 Ford Fusion in the southeast ditch of the intersection. The driver was not at the scene of the accident.

Jan. 11 — Lt. Griggs located the driver of the 2010 Ford Fusion in the accident at 4500 N. Woodlawn. The driver was issued a citation for driving with a suspended license.

Jan. 9 — Officer Steele checked an open door in the 4900 block of North Woodlawn.

Jan. 9 — Officer McGuire responded to an injury accident at 38th North and Edgemoor.

Jan. 9 — Officer Swanson responded to an alarm in the 4700 block of North Oliver.

Jan. 9 — Officer Hutton responded to an accident at 6300 E. 37th North.

Jan. 9 — Officer Steele checked on an open door in the 4900 block of North Woodlawn.

Jan. 8 — Officer McGuire found a spool of wire at 7000 E. 45th North.

Jan. 8 — Officer Foxx assisted Sedgwick County EMS in the 4000 block of North Clarendon.

Jan. 8 — Officer Foxx assisted Sedgwick County Fire Department and EMS in the 4400 block of North Edgemoor with the report of a house fire. There was no fire.

Jan. 8 — Officer Foxx conducted a traffic stop in the 4500 block of North Edgemoor. Vincent M. Burkett was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.

Jan. 8 — Officer Foxx responded to an audible alarm in the 3200 block of North Rock Road.

Jan. 8 — Lt. Griggs check on four people at 5833 E. Denise.

Jan. 7 — Officer McGuire assisted Sedgwick County Fire and EMS in the 4500 block of North Woodlow.

Jan. 7 — Officer Pentecost conducted a traffic stop at 6300 E. 37th North. The driver was issued a citation for driving with a suspended license and no proof of insurance.

Jan. 7 — Officer McGuire conducted a traffic stop at 5000 N. Woodlawn. Gregory Knight was arrested on a Summer County bench warrant. Knight was also arrested on charges of possession of marijuana, drug paraphernalia and a weapons violation.

Jan. 7 — Officer Pentecost checked an open door in the 4500 block of Westlake Court.

Jan. 6 — Officer Foxx responded to the report of a suspicious vehicle in the 5700 block of East Hanover. The vehicle was located. The driver was

looking for a residence.

Jan. 5 — Officer Hazelwood arrested Daniel L. Martin at 5300 N. Rock Road on a charge of driving with a suspended license.

Jan. 5 — Officer McCaslin arrested Michael C. Pete on a Bel Aire Municipal Court order to set bond at 7651 E. Central Park Avenue.

Jan. 5 — Officer Foxx assisted EMS at 4807 N. Hedgerow Court.

Jan. 4 — Officer Brandewiede conducted a traffic stop at 6200 E. 37th North. The driver was issued a citation for driving with a suspended license.

Jan. 4 — Officer Foxx assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff’s Office with a traffic stop at 9500 E. 61st North.

Jan. 2 — Officer Brandewiede conducted a traffic stop at 4100 N. Oliver. The driver was issued a citation for driving with a suspended license.

Jan. 2 — Officer Brandewiede conducted a traffic stop at 6300 E. 37th North. The driver was issued a citation for driving with a suspended license.

Jan. 2 — Officer McGuire assisted a citizen with a child custody issue at 7651 E. Central Park Avenue.

Jan. 2 — Officer Brandewiede conducted a traffic stop at 5900 E. 37th North. Mosha Young was arrested on a charge of driving with a suspended license.

Jan. 2 — Officer Toomey responded to a burglary in progress call in the 4200 block of North Rushwood Court.

Jan. 2 — Officer Toomey assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff’s Office with a traffic stop at 6500 E. 34th North.

Jan. 2 — Officer Toomey responded to an alarm in the 6200 block of East 37th North.

Jan. 2 — Officer Toomey responded to an alarm in the 3800 block of North Hillcrest.

Jan. 1 — Officer McGuire responded to the report of a larceny in the 6200 block of East 37th North.

Jan. 1 — Officer Brandewiede assisted Wichita police with a welfare check at 3810 N. Woodlawn.

Jan. 1 — Officer McGuire responded to an alarm in the 5100 block of East Ashton.

Jan. 1 — Officer McCaslin responded to an injury accident at 37th North and Oliver.

Jan. 1 — Officer Hazelwood took the report of a burglary in the 4200 block of North Rushwood Court.

Jan. 1 — Officer Steele checked an open door in the 4900 block of North Woodlawn.

Jan. 1 — Officer Foxx assisted EMS in the 4800 block of North Chapel View Drive.

Jan. 1 — Officer Steele assisted Sedgwick County Fire Department at 6200 E. 45th North.

Jan. 1 — Officer Steele assisted Wichita police with locating an assault victim in the 4500 block of North Woodlow Drive.

Dec. 31 — Officer Pentecost conducted a traffic stop at 550 E. 37th North. The driver was issued a citation for driving with a suspended license and illegal tag.

Dec. 31 — Officer McGuire assisted EMS at 4007 N. Clarendon.

Dec. 31 — Officer McGuire responded to an alarm in the 6600 block of East Summerside Place.

Dec. 31 — Officer Steele responded to a disturbance in the 4200 block of North Edgemoor. There were several intoxicated people at the location.

Dec. 31 — Officer Foxx responded

to the report of a domestic disturbance in the 4400 block of North Mission.

Dec. 31 — Officer Steele took the report that the Wichita police arrested Sebastian Mejia on a Bel Aire warrant.

Dec. 30 — Officer Swanson responded to a child custody complaint in the 4500 block of North Hillcrest.

Dec. 30 — Officer Hazelwood assisted Sedgwick County EMS at 4800 E. 44th Court.

Dec. 28 — Officer Pentecost took a report that John S. Baker was in custody in the Saline County Jail. Baker has Saline County charges and is being held on a Bel Aire Municipal Court warrant.

Dec. 28 — Officer Pentecost assisted Sedgwick County EMS in the 6800 block of Perryton.

Dec. 28 — Officer Pentecost took the report of a person receiving harassing phone calls in the 4300 block of North Stratford Court.

Dec. 28 — Officer Foxx checked on an occupied car in the Eagle Lake Park in the 4200 block of North Westlake after hours. The people in the vehicle were informed of the park’s hours and released.

Dec. 28 — Officer Foxx responded to the report of a burglary in progress in the 5100 block of East Ashton. Officers did not find a burglary.

Dec. 28 — Officer Pentecost responded to a domestic disturbance and battery in the 4200 block of North Rushwood.

Dec. 28 — Lt. Spencer responded to the report of disorderly conduct in the 4500 block of North Hillcrest.

Dec. 28 — Officer Fox responded to the report of a suspicious person at 2100 E. 53rd North.

Dec. 27 — Officer McGuire took the report of a larceny in the 4500 block of North Westlake Court. Someone took a package off of the front porch.

Dec. 27 — Officer Swanson responded to an alarm in the 7900 block of East Turquoise Street.

Dec. 27 — Officer Steele checked an open door in the 4900 block of North Woodlawn. The door was secured.

Dec. 26 — Officer McGuire responded to an alarm in the 4200 block of North Rushwood Court.

Dec. 26 — Officer Foxx assisted Park City Police Department with a disturbance at 5130 N. Broadway.

Dec. 26 — Officer Steele checked an open door in the 4900 block of North Woodlawn. The door was secured.

Dec. 25 — Officer Foxx conducted a traffic stop at 5600 E. 45th North. The driver was issued a citation for driving with a suspended license.

Dec. 24 — Officer Brandewiede conducted a traffic stop at 5500 E. 37th North. The driver had previously been warned about the expired tag. The tag was seized.

Dec. 24 — Officer Brandewiede conducted a traffic stop at 5500 E. 37th North. The driver was issued a citation for driving with a suspended license.

Dec. 23 — Officer McGuire took a report of a lost or stolen tag in the 4900 block of North Farmstead.

Dec. 23 — Officer Hazelwood assisted Sedgwick County EMS in the 4600 block of North Hedgerow.

Dec. 23 — Officer Foxx assisted Wichita police in the 4400 block of North Mission.

Dec. 22 — Officer Brandewiede conducted a traffic stop at 5500 E. 37th North. Tania Salvador-Guzman was arrested on charges of driving with a suspended license and no proof of insurance.

Dec. 22 — Officer Swanson checked for a suspicious person at 5300 E. 53rd North. While checking for the suspicious person the officer issued a citation to a driver on charges of driving with a suspended license and for an insurance violation.

Dec. 22 — Officer Steele assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff’s Office at 5300 E. 77th North.

Dec. 21 — Officer Brandewiede responded to a complaint of a barking dog in the 4200 block of North St. James Place.

Dec. 21 — Officer Brandewiede

conducted a traffic stop in the 6300 block of East 37th North. Dexter W. Johnson was arrested on a Sedgwick County warrant and a charge of driving with a suspended license.

Dec. 20 — Officer McGuire assisted Sedgwick County EMS in the 4500 block of North Westlake Court.

Dec. 20 — Officer Brandewiede responded to an alarm in the 6200 block of East 37th North.

Dec. 20 — Officer Hutton checked the welfare of a person walking in the 5000 block of East 39th North.

Dec. 20 — Lt. Spencer and Officer Hutton responded to the report of a disturbance involving juveniles in the 5200 block of East 48th North.

Dec. 19 — Officer Toomey assisted Sedgwick County Fire Department by providing traffic control for a grass fire at 45th North and Greenwich Road.

Dec. 19 — Officer Toomey assisted Sedgwick County EMS in the 4800 block of North Hedgerow.

Dec. 18 — Officer McGuire responded to the report of a suspicious person in the 4500 block of North Glendale.

Dec. 18 — Officer Foxx assisted Wichita police at 5200 N. St. James.

Dec. 18 — Officer Foxx checked

on a suspicious vehicle parked at the new elementary school construction site. Felipe M. Gonzalez was arrested on City of Wichita warrant.

Dec. 18 — Officer McGuire conducted a traffic stop at 5800 E. 37th North. The driver was issued a citation for driving with a suspended license.

Dec. 18 — Officer Hutton responded to the report of a person cutting Christmas lights two different times in the 4500 block of Rushwood Court.

Dec. 18 — Officer Foxx assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff’s Office at 13000 E. 125th North.

Dec. 17 — Officer McGuire responded to the report of embezzlement of an automobile at 6300 E. 37th North.

Dec. 17 — Officer Hutton responded to an alarm in the 6600 block of East Summerside Place.

Dec. 17 — Officer Steele responded to an audible alarm in the 6200 block of East 41st Court North.

Dec. 16 — Officer McGuire checked the welfare of a person at 5900 E. 41st North.

Dec. 16 — Officer Swanson responded to the report of a larceny at 6200 Quail Ridge Court. A package was taken off of the front porch.

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Couple traveling on horseback to raise money for therapy ranch

By Matt Heilman

Richard and Jeanette McGrath of Jackson, Wyo., are on an adventure that has lasted 10 months and has covered nearly 2,300 miles. The couple is on the home stretch of their trip with about 1,400 miles to go on a horse-riding trail that stretches from coast to coast. They expect to cover the remaining ground in less than four months.

Last spring, the McGraths embarked on a horse ride that began in Point Reyes National Seashore, just north of San Francisco, and will conclude in late spring or early summer in Cape Henlopen State Park in Delaware.

“We’re about three months behind schedule,” Richard said. “We’ve had some wrecks and some sicknesses and just some soreness and injury-type deals and have had to stop longer than we’ve wanted to.”

Jeanette said she dreamed of taking a cross-country trail ride when she grew up on her family’s Connecticut farm, but the purpose for the challenging adventure goes beyond fulfilling a childhood dream.

The McGraths’ journey is a fundraising mission to open Hearts Up Ranch near Jackson, Wyo. The idea is for the ranch to serve as therapy for people with emotional scars, including war veterans, rape victims or sufferers of post-traumatic stress disorder, Richard said.



“It’s working with emotional healing by using horses and outdoor adventure to help people open up and start talking,” Richard said. “...It’s a young nonprofit, so we’re hoping to raise money so we can buy a home in a permanent location.”

Jeanette said that through outdoor activities, people are more likely to open up and discuss their problems than they would be in an office setting.

The goal for the McGraths’ trip is to raise \$2 million. Donations can be made on the nonprofit’s website, www.heartsupranch.com, or to PO Box 6308, Jackson, Wyo., 83002.

They are packed light for their cross-country journey, looking to cover every mile on horseback. With their horses’ health a priority, the McGraths average between 15 and 20 miles per day before they stop to rest.

Their journey includes just them and the horses. There’s no RV or ridealong vehicle to accompany them.

As they make their way across the country, their progress can be followed via GPS at the Hearts Up Ranch website. As they progress through Kansas, they said their goal is to get 4,000 people to donate \$50

before they reach the Missouri border.

From the Bay area, through desert and the Rocky Mountains, the McGraths and their horses have progressed to the Wichita area in decent shape. Accompanied by five horses, they reached a stopping point in Kechi about 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 17.

They unloaded their gear and got their horses situated in a stable on the horse ranch run by Oscar Thomison.

Thomison, who has more than 100 horses on his ranch, said he was connected to the McGraths through a friend.

Richard and Jeanette McGrath stop at a Kechi horse ranch Jan. 17, past the halfway point of their cross-country adventure on horseback. The couple is trekking through Kansas on their journey that started last March in California.

Matt Heilman

Thomison said he was impressed with his guests’ effort and couldn’t imagine trying to ride a horse across the country.

“If you sit there and think about it, that’s a helluva feat that they’ve done so far,” he said of the McGraths’ progress from California to Kansas.

Along the way, the McGraths said they’ve been fortunate to spend several nights in homes of friends they’ve met. They’ve also spent their fair share of time sleeping in tents, but said they’ve been blessed the whole way.

In Colorado, at the base of the Rocky Mountains, their adventure hit a snag when one of four horses that started the trip in California was injured.

“We weren’t sure if we were going to be able to continue the trip,” Jeanette said.

They met a stranger on the side of the road who visited with them for an hour and was able to help in a big way. The stranger made a call to a friend, who had previously completed

a horse ride from Canada to Mexico a couple of years ago.

“He knew exactly what we needed having completed a trip like that, and he said ‘Well, I had so many people that were kind to me and helped me out on my trip that I want to basically pay it forward and help you guys be successful on your trip,’” Jeanette said.

The McGraths were given a fifth horse to lighten the burden on the injured horse and allow the animal to heal. By the time the couple reached Kansas, the injured horse was near full health.

“I’m beyond the point of calling it luck. We’re just being blessed. God’s taking care of us because we’ve had nothing but experiences like that,” Jeanette said. “That’s above and beyond and extremely generous. We’ve had so many people help us out.”

When the McGrath’s reach Delaware, Richard said his mom would meet them at Cape Henlopen with a trailer to bring the horses back home to Wyoming. There’s a slight dilemma in that the McGrath’s trailer is a four-horse trailer, but five horses accompany them.

“If anybody knows anybody that’s looking to sponsor or get rid of a five-horse or a stock trailer, they can contact us,” Richard said.

For more information on the McGraths, their mission and their adventure, visit the Hearts Up Ranch website.

Grant available for city collaboration

By Matt Heilman

The neighboring cities of Kechi and Bel Aire have separate identities but are interested in forging a partnership to save money, benefit economic development and pool resources where they can.

Particularly, the cities are interested to see where they may be able to share infrastructure in adjoining development along K-254. Kechi’s Rock Pointe addition near K-254 and Rock Road is about one mile north of the future USD 259 high school in Bel Aire.

Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher said a sewage line from the new high school would run north and there’s a ridgeline just northeast of the school. Once north of the ridgeline, Bel Aire would likely have to pay to put in a lift station in addition to a sewer main. He said installing a lift station could cost as much as \$800,000. Kechi has sewer lines already in place north of the new high school and might be able to help Bel Aire avoid having to build the lift station, Lasher said.

“If there’s cost savings for both of us, we can use funds for economic development on 254 that benefits both communities,” Lasher said.

There may also be possibilities to share services, Kechi City Administrator Mark Tallman said. For example, Bel Aire has a community swimming pool in the Central Park development and a rec center, two things Kechi doesn’t have.

Allowing Kechi residents to use these services could bring

additional revenues to Bel Aire, Lasher said.

Besides a border, a major commonality is that neither city has a defined downtown or business district. Strategic planning in Kechi is looking to change this by establishing a business district on 61st North, the city’s main street.

On 61st, just west of Hillside, Kechi is neighbors with Park City. With more development, businesses and services, Park City isn’t involved in the collaborative planning at this time.

The idea is that since Bel Aire and Kechi are further behind in development, a partnership could spur progress in each city.

Tallman said Kechi and Bel Aire are too wealthy per capita to qualify for grants individually, but collectively, there’s an opportunity to win money to start long-term collaborative planning.

Recently, Tallman and Lasher learned their cities could combine to win a grant for as much as \$25,000 in the Community Capacity Building Grant Program through the Kansas

Department of Commerce.

With the grant, the cities would hire a third-party consultant from outside Kechi and Bel Aire to study each city and return to each city’s council with recommendations on where resources can be pooled and money can be saved.

Tallman said a third party might be able to spot efficiencies that are overlooked by employees or residents in Bel Aire and Kechi. The application deadline for the grant is in early February.

Chris Harris of the Kansas Department of Commerce said the Community Capacity Building Grant Program has funded four of five projects per year for the last several years. However, he said the partnership efforts of Bel Aire and Kechi are unique.

If the cities win a grant, they’d likely have to provide a 20 percent cash match of the total dollar amount they won. So,

if Kechi and Bel Aire secured \$25,000, each city would likely pay 10 percent or \$2,500.

Both cities have enough budgeted to meet this requirement.

Tallman first discussed the grant in November when he said Kechi and Bel Aire could secure \$10,000, an amount that has expanded.

“The state sees fit to help out two communities who want to work together for efficiencies,” he said at that time.

Two months later, there has been progress, although Bel Aire and Kechi won’t likely know if they’ve secured grant money until March.

At the Jan. 13 Kechi City Council meeting, Tallman said the third-party consultant, Professional Engineering Consultants (PEC), has started to work with Kechi and Bel Aire free of charge before the grant process is complete. PEC is the city engineer for Kechi

and knows what infrastructure is in the ground in the city. Underground, Kechi has more in place than Bel Aire, Tallman said.

Tallman said PEC is “getting a start with Kechi and Bel Aire, knowing the whole thing could end if a grant isn’t approved.”

With potential cost savings through shared infrastructure as an objective, the cities have picked up some support for

the grant. On Jan. 13, Tallman received a letter of support from the Sedgwick County Commission.

District 1 Commissioner Dave Unruh and newly elected District 4 Commissioner Richard Ranzau attended Kechi’s Jan. 13 council meeting.

Most of Kechi is in District 1, with some of the city’s annexed property in District 4. All of Bel Aire is in District 1.

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Another term

District 1 Sedgwick County Commissioner Dave Unruh (right) takes the oath of office from Judge Eric Yost to serve his third term on the Sedgwick County Commission. The representative of northeast Sedgwick County, including Kechi and Bel Aire, thanked his wife and supporters for helping him secure another term on the commission. Other family members were on hand to support Unruh, including his brother and an aunt and uncle. After expressing gratitude for staying on the commission, Unruh discussed some of the responsibilities and requirements of being a leader for Sedgwick County, including the multi-faceted task of providing public safety, as well as health and human services.

Matt Heilman



PEOPLE HIGHLIGHTS

Five area students were named to honor rolls at Pittsburg State University for the Fall 2010 semester. Named to the Dean's List from Bel Aire were Amanda Orloske, Emily Wilson, Hannah Hunsinger, Kira Moravec and Lauren Smith. ††† Two high school seniors were awarded the 2011 Fran

Jabara Scholarship in Entrepreneurship at Wichita State University. David McAdam, a homeschooled senior from Bel Aire, and Ally Foy, a senior at Baldwin High School in Baldwin City, are the recipients. The scholarship, one of the most prestigious at WSU and one of the largest

entrepreneurship scholarships nationally, awards each recipient \$20,000 over four years. ††† Sedgwick County Emergency Management will host severe weather safety programs in several cities starting in February. In the area, training will be March 3 at Valley Center City Hall,

March 9 at Park City Senior Center, March 17 at Kechi City Hall and April 14 at Bel Aire City Hall. Classes begin at 6:30 p.m. ††† Local Girl Scouts started their annual cookie sales Jan. 22. The effort will continue through March 13. Eight varieties are available at \$3.50 per box.

CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

Christ Lutheran Church Sunday service times are 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship and 9:45 a.m. Sunday School. The church is located at 5356 N. Hillside (53rd North and Hillside) across from Heights High School. Find the church online at www.christ-lutheran.org; e-mail office@clc.kscoxmail.com. Call the office at 744-1242 for more information.

Church of the Resurrection Church of the Resurrection (Roman Catholic) is located at 4910 N. Woodlawn in Bel Aire. Masses for the Lord's Day are 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday. Weekday Masses are 8 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; also at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday. Resurrection Catholic School has students from preschool through eighth grade. The parish/school website is www.resurrectionwichita.com. Phone number is 744-2776. Rev. Sherman A. Orr is the pastor.

Community Bible Chapel The church is located at 4551 Auburn, south of 45th North between Oliver and Woodlawn, in Bel Aire. Worship service and breaking of the bread are at 9 a.m., with Bible study and Sunday school at 10:30 on Sundays. Wednesday prayer and Bible study are at 7 p.m. For more information, call Melvan Adair at 744-7091.

Crossroads Friends Church Crossroads Friends Church meets at Stucky Middle School (east from 45th North and Hillside) at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday.

The church has Crossroads Kids and Crossroads Cribs ministry areas, as well as contemporary music, relevant Bible teaching and a laid-back, friendly atmosphere. Lead pastor is David Norman and associate pastor is Jeff Mullen. Call the church office at 361-0407 or visit it online at www.crossroadswichita.com.

Fairmount United Church of Christ The church is located at 1605 Fairmount in Wichita (south of WSU main entrance). Rev. Dr. Monte Gravenstein, interim minister, leads Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible study begins at 9:30. Children's church and nursery are at 10:30. For more information, call 682-1597 or visit at www.fairmountuccc.org.

Gospel Assembly Church Located at 4230 N. Oliver in Bel Aire, service times are 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. Bible study is 7 p.m. Monday. Prayer service is 7 p.m. Tuesday. Praise and worship is 7 p.m. Wednesday. Phone number is 744-1502. Rev. Gary D. Green is the pastor.

Greenwich United Methodist Church Sunday worship service is at 9 a.m. Fellowship and coffee following the service. Pastor Natalie can be reached at 773-2300 or 744-0203. Pastor Natalie is at the church from 5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays. Free coffee and donuts are available from 5:30 to 9 a.m. Thursdays. Senior Day is Feb. 1 at 10 a.m. United Methodist Women's Meeting will be at 1 p.m. Feb.

3. Visit the church online at Greenwichsumc.org. The church is located about a mile south of K-254 on Greenwich Road.

Kechi United Methodist Church Located at 4533 E. 61st North in Kechi, the Rev. Guy E. Rendoff is the pastor. Church phone number is 744-1221, its website is www.kechiumc.org and its e-mail address is kechiumc@sbcglobal.net. Sunday praise band and worship are at 9:03 a.m. Sunday school is at 10. Worship is at 11. The United Methodist Women will hold their general meeting at 10 a.m. Feb. 5. The Busy Body Circle will prepare

the meal. **Park City Church of the Nazarene** Sunday school for all ages is at 9:30 a.m. Worship and children's church are at 10:45. Wednesday Bible study for adults begins with sandwiches and chips at 6:15 p.m. The church is located at 2100 E. 61st North in Park City.

Pine Valley Christian Church The church is located at 5620 E. 21st North. Sunday school is at 9 a.m. with worship at 10:15. For more information call 685-2421.

True Life Church True Life Church meets at

Bel Aire resident one of 11 seeking at-large seat on Wichita school board

By The Breeze staff

Bel Aire resident Kim Bush is one of 11 candidates seeking an at-large seat on the Wichita school board. Bush, a graduate of Kansas State University with a masters degree in political science, said she wants to be an advocate for USD 259, "focused on delivering more of our tax dollars to the classroom." "I know I won't be able to resolve every problem within our education system, but I promise to be fiscally disciplined,

stretching our education dollars to do more with less," Bush said in a news release. The other at-large candidates include Matt Smith, Susan Kiefer, Chris Colvin, Phil Neff, Mary Dean, Steven G. Flesher, Sheril Logan, Carly Miller, Margarita LaFarelle Hunt and Peter V. Gant, all of Wichita. In District 3, board member Barb Fuller is running unopposed. In District 4, incumbent Jeff Davis has two opponents — Michael Ackerman Jr. and Clayton Houston.

Tougher requirements for admissions

By The Breeze staff

The Kansas Board of Regents recently approved new standards for admission to state colleges and universities. The changes will apply beginning with the Class of 2015 (this year's eighth-graders). A student must now either complete four units of math (instead of the current three), with at least one unit taken in the student's senior year or the student must complete three units and achieve a score of 22

on the math portion of the ACT. Also, a student must now complete either the pre-college or Kansas Scholars curriculum with at least a 2.0 GPA and the student must achieve one of the following: •ACT composite score of 21. •SAT score of 980 on math and critical reading. •Rank in the top third of his or her graduating class. Also, a category for electives was added, and three units will be required.

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